

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1, a bill to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes.

S. 21

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 21, a bill making continuing appropriations for Coast Guard pay in the event an appropriations act expires prior to the enactment of a new appropriations act.

S. 30

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 30, a bill to require the Secretary of Defense to develop and implement a plan to provide chiropractic health care services for certain covered beneficiaries as part of the TRICARE program.

S. 91

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 91, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize per diem payments under comprehensive service programs for homeless veterans to furnish care to dependents of homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 104

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 104, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions.

S. 160

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 160, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect pain-capable unborn children, and for other purposes.

S. 162

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 162, a bill to provide back pay to low-wage contractor employees, and for other purposes.

S. 183

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 183, a bill to amend the

Public Health Service Act to prohibit governmental discrimination against providers of health services that are not involved in abortion.

S. 185

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 185, a bill to require certain financial assistance under the State energy program and the Weatherization Assistance Program to be distributed without undue delay to support State and local high-impact energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives.

S. 200

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 200, a bill to prohibit the conduct of a first-use nuclear strike absent a declaration of war by Congress.

S. 207

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 207, a bill to enhance tribal road safety, and for other purposes.

S. 209

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 209, a bill to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian Tribes, and for other purposes.

S. 211

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 211, a bill to amend the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 to secure urgent resources vital to Indian victims of crime, and for other purposes.

S. 222

At the request of Mr. JONES, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 222, a bill to amend section 1341 of title 31, United States Code, to require payment of interest on back pay for employees affected by a lapse in appropriations.

S. 238

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 238, a bill to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to monitor and combat anti-Semitism globally, and for other purposes.

S. 246

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 246, a bill to block the implementation of certain presidential actions that restrict individuals from certain countries from entering the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 58

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the

Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 58 intended to be proposed to S. 1, a bill to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. WARREN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. JONES):

S. 266. A bill to provide for the long-term improvement of public school facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, public schools play a vital role in every community across the Nation. They play a central role in our democracy—educating the next generation, serving as polling places for our elections, hosting community meetings and events, and so much more. When there is a natural disaster or an emergency, people often gather at their public schools for shelter, information, and resources. They are essential facilities and must be included in any new major federal investment in infrastructure. That is why I am proud to partner with Chairman SCOTT in the House of Representatives in introducing the Rebuild America's Schools Act to fix our schools. I would like to thank my Senate colleagues who are joining in this effort, including Senators BROWN, CORTEZ MASTO, HASSAN, WARREN, WHITEHOUSE, CASEY, CARDIN, DUCKWORTH, MERKLEY, HARRIS, HIRONO, GILLIBRAND, VAN HOLLEN, ROSEN, BLUMENTHAL, and SANDERS.

Safe, healthy, modern, well-equipped schools are essential for advancing student achievement and ensuring that the next generation is prepared to meet the economic, social, environmental, and global challenges our nation faces. Yet, too many of the over 50 million students and six million staff who learn and work in our public schools spend their days in facilities that fail to make the grade. A 2014 Department of Education study estimated that it would cost \$197 billion to bring all public schools into "good" condition. Nationally, there is also a \$38 billion funding gap in annual capital construction and new facility funding, as reported in the 2016 State of Our Schools report. Despite the benefits and need, however, Federal funding accounts for 0.2% of the total current capital investment in our schools.

State and local communities cannot bridge this gap alone. Last November,

Rhode Island voters approved a general obligation bond of \$250 million dollars—the largest statewide bond ever—to upgrade our public school facilities. However, the State had identified over \$2.2 billion in needed improvements to school infrastructure. Rhode Island is not the only State facing a school infrastructure crisis. In fact, the American Society of Civil Engineers gave the country an overall grade of D+ in their 2017 report card. The scope of the school infrastructure crisis is more than many, States or communities can address on their own. The Federal government can and should be a partner in upgrading our public school facilities.

Addressing this need is not only the right thing to do for our students; it will also give a needed boost to our economy, putting people to work in family sustaining jobs. According to an analysis by the Economic Policy Institute, every \$1 billion spent on construction generates 17,785 jobs.

The Rebuild America's Schools Act of 2019 will create Federal-State partnership for school infrastructure. It will provide, over ten years, a total of \$100 billion in direct grants and school construction bonds to help fill the annual gap in school facility capital needs, while creating nearly two million jobs.

Specifically, the Rebuild America's Schools Act will provide \$7 billion per year in formula funds to States for local competitive grants for school repair, renovation, and construction. States will focus assistance on communities with the greatest financial need, encourage green construction practices, and expand access to high-speed broadband to ensure that all students have access to digital learning. Our legislation would also provide \$30 billion for qualified school infrastructure bonds (QSIBs), \$10 billion each year from FY 2020 through FY 2022, and restore the Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZABS) that were eliminated in the Republican Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. The legislation also eases the matching requirements and expands the authority and eligible purposes of QZABS to allow local education agencies to construct, rehabilitate, retrofit, or repair school facilities. The Rebuild America's Schools Act also supports American workers by ensuring that projects use American-made iron, steel, and manufactured products and meet labor standards.

I would like to thank the broad coalition of educators, community organizations, unions, civil rights advocates, and employers that have provided feedback and support for this legislation, including the American Federation of Teachers, Association of Educational Service Agencies, Association of School Building Administrators International, Brick Industry Association, Californians for School Facilities, Council of Great City Schools, Healthy Schools Network, International Union of Operating Engineers, International

Union of Painters and Allied Trades, National Association of Elementary School Principals, National Association of Federally Impacted Schools, National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Concrete Masonry Association, National Education Association, National PTA, National Rural Education Advocacy Consortium, National Rural Education Association, National Urban League, North America's Building Trades Unions, Organizations Concerned About Rural Education, Public Advocacy for Kids, Rebuild America's Schools, Rural School and Community Trust, Secure Schools Alliance, Teach Plus, Twenty-First Century Schools Fund, and U.S. Green Building Council. We look forward to expanding this coalition in the weeks and months ahead.

We have no time to waste in fixing our deteriorating school infrastructure. In the words of a student activist in Providence, "Students cannot learn in a crumbling building, a school that isn't fit to uplift our minds." We need to listen to our students, strengthen our communities, and improve our school buildings. I urge all of our colleagues to support the Rebuild America's Schools Act and press for its passage.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 34—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE GOVERNMENTS OF BURMA AND BANGLADESH ENSURE THE SAFE, DIGNIFIED, VOLUNTARY, AND SUSTAINABLE RETURN OF THE ROHINGYA REFUGEES WHO HAVE BEEN DISPLACED BY THE CAMPAIGN OF ETHNIC CLEANSING CONDUCTED BY THE BURMESE MILITARY AND TO IMMEDIATELY RELEASE UNJUSTLY IMPRISONED JOURNALISTS, WA LONE AND KYAW SOE OO

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. Kaine, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. COONS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. PETERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

#### S. RES. 34

Whereas, on August 25, 2017, attacks on security posts in Burma by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army militant group resulted in a brutal, systematic, and disproportionate reprisal by the Burmese military and security forces on Rohingya villages in Rakhine State;

Whereas approximately 700,000 Rohingya refugees have fled to Bangladesh since the Burmese military commenced its scorched-earth campaign, with the burning of villages and local monuments, and reports of widespread gang rape, starvation, killing, and forcible deportation;

Whereas the August 2018 United Nations report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar states in paragraph 87 that "the Mission concluded . . . that there is sufficient information to warrant the investigation and prosecution of senior officials in the Tatmadaw chain of command, so that a competent court can determine their liability for genocide in relation to the situation in Rakhine State";

Whereas, on August 28, 2018, then-United States Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley reported to the United Nations Security Council that the Department of State had conducted interviews with 1,024 Rohingya refugees in camps throughout Cox's Bazar and that the results of the interviews were consistent with the United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar;

Whereas, on September 24, 2018, the Department of State report titled, "Documentation of Atrocities in Northern Rakhine State", concluded that the military's attacks in Burma's Northern Rakhine State were "large-scale, widespread and seemingly geared toward both terrorizing the population and driving out the Rohingya residents" and that the "scope and scale of the military's operations indicate that they were well-planned and coordinated";

Whereas, on December 3, 2018, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum concluded that "there is compelling evidence that the Burmese military committed ethnic cleansing, crimes against humanity, and genocide against the Rohingya";

Whereas the Government of Burma has consistently denied access to the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar established to investigate human rights violations around the country;

Whereas the fundamental operational principles of voluntary repatriation are safety, to include legal and physical safety, and dignity, to include treatment with respect and full acceptance by their national authorities, including the full restoration of refugees' rights;

Whereas approximately 236,000 Rohingya refugees returned to Burma from Bangladesh under the terms of a 1992 agreement after a previous bout of violence against the Rohingya forced them to flee, only to continue to be denied citizenship, face prejudice, violence, and persecution, and in many instances be forced to live in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps with their freedom of movement restricted;

Whereas Burma's 1982 citizenship law stripped Rohingya of their Burmese citizenship, rendering them stateless;

Whereas the Government of Burma continues to systematically discriminate against the Rohingya people, a long-persecuted Muslim minority within Burma, including by continuing to restrict registration of Rohingya births and to deny them freedom of movement, access to healthcare, land, education, marriage, voting rights, and political participation;

Whereas the Government of Burma has repeatedly abused land use laws to unjustly seize land from Rohingya refugees;

Whereas the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) is working closely with the Government of Bangladesh and partners to provide protection and assistance to the Rohingya refugees and to support the host populations affected by the influx;

Whereas, on November 23, 2017, the Government of Burma and the Government of Bangladesh signed an agreement, known as the "Arrangement", on the return of displaced persons from Rakhine State, which is modeled after the 1992 repatriation agreement between Burma and Bangladesh;